

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

/194 W

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R 211730Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5590

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 4120

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CS, XK

SUBJECT: SAN JOSE PROTOCOL PUT IN EFFECT BY DECREE

REF: SAN JOSE 4062

1. THE ASSEMBLY IN THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 20
RATIFIED THE EXTENSION OF THE PROTOCOL OF SAN JOSE, THEREBY
EXTENDING THE 30 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON IMPORT DUTIES
ORIGINALLY IMPOSED IN 1968 BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CACM COUNTRIES. THE MEASURE RATIFYING THE EXTENSION
OF THE PROTOCOL IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT
TODAY AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE NOVEMBER 22.

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2. COMMENT: THE FIRST PROTOCOL OF SAN JOSE EXPIRED NOVEMBER 8 AND SINCE OTHER CACM MEMBERS RATIFIED COSTA RICA WAS LEFT IN AN AWKWARD POSITION. TO PREVENT WINDFALLS ACCRUING TO IMPORTERS DURING THE BRIEF PERIOD PENDING RATIFICATION OF THE EXTENSION AGREEMENT (AND TO AVOID RETALIATIONS BY OTHER CACM MEMBERS) THE GOCR FIRST CLOSED ITS CUSTOMS HOUSES FOR A FEW DAYS "FOR INVENTORY" AND THEN ISSUED, AN EXECUTIVE DECREE UNDER WHICH COLLECTIONS OF THE SURCHARGE WERE MADE AND HELD IN ESCROW. THIS ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE HAS BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED IN THE ASSEMBLY AND IN THE PRESS AS A VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS. IN OTHER ACTIONS THE ASSEMBLY ALSO COMPLETED THE SECOND OF THE REQUIRED THREE DEBATES ON THE BUDGET (WHICH MUST BY LAW BE APPROVED BY NOVEMBER 30) AND THE SPECIAL STUDY COMMITTEE ON RECOPE REQUESTED AN EXTENSION OF TIME IN WHICH TO CONSIDER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOCR AND ALLIED CHEMICAL FOR TRANSFERRING COSTA RICA'S REFINERY TO THE FORMER. THE ASSEMBLY WILL END ITS PRESENT SESSION NOVEMBER 30.

VAKY

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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